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Eldon  
Hazlet  
STATE RECREATIONAL AREA



CONSERVATION

## THE AREA

Opened to the public in 1970, the 3,000-acre Eldon Hazlet State Recreational Area on the west side of Carlyle in Clinton County, was named in memory of Eldon Hazlet, President of the Kaskaskia Valley Association. This group was primarily responsible for promoting the Carlyle Reservoir, the largest man-made lake in Illinois, as well as Lake Shelbyville and other improvements on the Kaskaskia River.

Today, Eldon Hazlet State Recreational Area provides facilities for thousands of outdoor enthusiasts who come to Carlyle Lake to fish, picnic, camp, hunt, boat, or hike.

## HISTORY

Eldon Hazlet, a Carlyle attorney, and the Kaskaskia Valley Association worked many years for a comprehensive plan for developing the Kaskaskia River Basin for flood control, navigation, fish and wildlife conservation, water supply, and recreation.

The project was authorized by Congress on July 3, 1958, and construction began late that year. A total of 62,400 acres of land was purchased or easements acquired.

The Carlyle Dam and Reservoir is on the Kaskaskia River near Carlyle, about 107 river miles above the mouth of the river in Fayette, Bond, Marion, and Clinton counties. Prior to the reservoir construction, there were many major alterations. Relocation of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad was completed in the fall of 1965 at the cost of over \$7 million. Economically, it was found more feasible to construct a new elevated roadbed adjacent to the existing one instead of routing the railroad around the reservoir.

Mineral rights for 69 oil wells were purchased and plugged to prevent possible pollution to the reservoir. Approximately 20 miles of existing county and township roads were altered to provide necessary access to project facilities. Affected power and telephone lines throughout the reservoir area were either relocated or removed as required.

Alterations to affected cemeteries in the area consisted of the relocation of 600 burials from seven existing cemeteries to others outside the project limits and raising the positions of three cemeteries on the outer edge of the reservoir. Approximately 16,500 acres of land were cleared within the limits of the normal pool of the reservoir.

After completion of various alterations, the reservoir's major construction began with the building of the earthfill dam, 67 feet above stream bed, 6,570 feet in length and with four 38-by 39-foot control gates. The concrete, gate-controlled spillway is 179 feet long. The reservoir has a normal pool of 26,000 acres.

Completion of the Carlyle Dam and Reservoir Project was in June, 1967, at a cost of approximately \$41 million. Careful consideration was given to the preservation of the environment to enhance the natural beauty and to ensure an abundant wildlife population.

The main channel of the river runs along the bluffs on the east side of the park, which is now inundated by the lake. In earlier years, tribes of Iroquois Indians lived along these bluffs. Southern Illinois University archaeologists have dug many relics and artifacts of the early Indian tribes from the bluff area.

## FACILITIES

**Picnicking** — Almost 10 miles of roads wind through the park to the picnic areas and parking lots. Tables and picnic grills are furnished and there are 16 rustic shelters. Water fountains and toilet facilities are scattered throughout the area.

**Trails** — Three trails of about one mile each allow the visitor to explore the park from the nature observation point overlooking the lake, or inspect the very old headstones marking the graves of the early Irish settlers in the Burnside Pre-Civil War Cemetery.

**Boating** — Carlyle Lake, approximately five miles across and 18 miles long, is ideal for boating and sailing. There is a launching ramp for small boats, a four-lane and a 2-lane ramp. There is no horsepower limit on the lake. Boat rentals are not available. The Carlyle Sailing Association operates the sailboat concession and has a ramp for launching sailboats. For a fee, their electric hoist may be used for large sailboats.

**Fishing** — Largemouth bass, white bass, walleye, bluegill, sunfish, crappie, channel catfish, carp, and suckers are available for the angler.

**Camping** — Illini Campground has places for 336 trailers, with electrical outlets, a sanitary disposal station, and three shower buildings. There are 36 sites for tent walk-in camping. Contact the park staff for camping permits. All groups of over 25 persons need advance permission to enter the park.

Eldon Hazlet State Recreational Area has 24-hour patrol. In an EMERGENCY, if no one can be reached at the Park Office 618/594-3015, call the Clinton County Sheriff's Office 618/594-4555. They will reach Park Security by radio.

**Hunting** — Controlled pheasant hunting on a put-and-take basis is permitted in season. Contact the park staff for information concerning shooting times and opening dates.



**Other** — Additional facilities on the lake that are operated by the Department of Conservation are South Shore State Park, which has extensive camping, picnicking, and boat launches, as well as concessionaire operated Patoka Access Area on the east side and Tamalco Access Area on the west side. Both have launching ramps. Patoka has camping and fishing.

The following recreational areas are operated by the Corps of Engineers: Spillway, West, Boulder, Coles Creek, and East Access Areas; Keyesport Access Area and Boat Dock. A variety of facilities are offered at each.

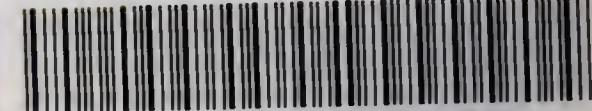
## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Groups of 25 or more persons will not be admitted to any state site unless permission from the Site Superintendent has been obtained to use the facilities. In addition, groups of minors must have adequate supervision and at least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors. All pets must be on a leash.

Numerous state sites are within easy access of every part of Illinois. Lodges, cabins, and dining rooms are important features of Illinois Beach, Starved Rock, Pere Marquette, and Giant City; White Pines Forest and Cave-In-Rock have cabins and dining rooms only; and Black Hawk has dining rooms only. Reservations for lodging should be made with lodge managers.

Most state sites are open year-round, except on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. When weather conditions necessitate the closing of roads during freezing and thawing periods, access to facilities is by foot only.

For more details about this site, contact Site Superintendent, Eldon Hazlet State Recreational Area, Carlyle, Illinois 62231, phone 618/594-3015. For information on other Illinois sites, contact the Department of Conservation, 524 S. Second St., Springfield, Illinois 62706.



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